

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 469

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elizabeth Moorhead Brown of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Elizabeth Moorhead Brown; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Moorhead "Betty" Brown was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on August 20, 1939, in Louisville, Kentucky, Elizabeth Moorhead Brown was the second of three children born to Sue Atherton Moorhead and Rodman Wister Moorhead, Jr., who was Executive Vice President of Brown-Forman Corporation; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Collegiate School in Louisville, Betty Moorhead Brown attended Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she earned a degree in Art History prior to relocating to New York City; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 1962, she married Martin Shallenberger Brown, a family friend since childhood, and relocated to the vicinity of Lynchburg, Tennessee, where Mr. Brown was employed by the Jack Daniel Distillery; and

WHEREAS, leaving Tennessee for two years while Mr. Brown served in the United States Army, the Browns would eventually settle in Nashville where Mrs. Brown would quickly establish herself as a dedicated community activist and greatly admired civic leader; and

WHEREAS, committed to the greater good, Betty Brown sought to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens on multiple levels, as perhaps best exemplified by her service as the founding director of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, lending her time and talents to countless civic and charitable organizations, Betty Brown served as a board member of the Metro Historical Commission, Alive Hospice,

Nashville Civic Design Center, Ensworth School, Historic Nashville, Junior League of Nashville, and Nashville Opera; and

WHEREAS, an avid gardener who loved to spend time with others in her magnificent vegetable and wildflower gardens, Betty Brown was enthralled with the majesty of nature and was a co-founder and longtime President of the Nashville Tree Foundation, which replaced nearly 6,000 trees through the ReLeaf Nashville program following the 1998 tornado and continues to support the city's urban forest; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Leadership Nashville, Betty Brown co-chaired the Century III Nashville committee that conceived Riverfront Park in downtown Nashville and later actively supported the initiative to create the Nashville Greenways program; and

WHEREAS, at the national and international levels, Betty Brown was a member of the board of the American Council for the Arts in Washington and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, lectured at Colonial Williamsburg and elsewhere to encourage gardening, and traveled to Haiti to help with Episcopal Church construction projects; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Elizabeth Moorhead Brown was inducted into the YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement in 2004, received the National MS Hope Award that same year, and was presented the Historic Preservation Award from the Garden Club of America in 1999; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by her sister, Sue Moorhead Smythe, Mrs. Brown is survived by her husband, Martin Shallenberger Brown; their son and daughter-in-law, Martin S. Brown, Jr. and Cathy Stewart Brown; and their three daughters and sons-in-law, Elizabeth Moorhead Brown and Hamilton Candee, Margaret Brown de Clercq and Casper de Clercq, and Susannah Brown Scott-Barnes and Alec Scott-Barnes; and

WHEREAS, a devoted wife and mother, Betty Brown was also the beloved grandmother of nine grandchildren: Sara and Louis Brown; Anna Candee; Lucas, Willem, and Martin de Clercq; and Willow, Josephine, and Max Scott-Barnes; and

WHEREAS, she will be sadly mourned, but fondly remembered, by her brother and sister-in-law, Robert W. Moorhead III and Alice Moorhead, and fourteen nieces and nephews, in addition to a host of dear friends and extended family members; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Moorhead Brown leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Elizabeth Moorhead Brown, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Elizabeth Moorhead Brown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.